

Case 3500***Paradisaea* Linnaeus, 1758 and PARADISAEIDAE Swainson, 1825 (Aves):
proposed conservation of usage**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 81.1 of the Code, is to conserve the generic name *Paradisaea* Linnaeus, 1758 and the family name PARADISAEIDAE Swainson, 1825 for the birds of paradise. These names in these spellings have been in prevailing use for over 75 years. Suppression of the competing spellings *Paradisea* Linnaeus, 1758 and, as a consequence, PARADISEIDAE Swainson, 1825, will maintain stability in nomenclature.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Aves; PARADISAEIDAE; *Paradisaea*; *Paradisea*; birds of paradise; Australasia; New Guinea.

1. The generic name *Paradisaea* Linnaeus, 1758 and the family name PARADISAEIDAE Swainson, 1825 are the accustomed spellings of these names for members of one of the best-known and most charismatic groups of birds in the world, the birds of paradise. When establishing the generic name, Linnaeus (1758, p. 110) applied it in that spelling to two species of birds of paradise: *Paradisaea apoda* Linnaeus, 1758 (p. 110) (type species of *Paradisaea* by subsequent designation of G.R. Gray (1840, p. 39)) and *Paradisaea regia* Linnaeus, 1758 (p. 110). On page 83 of the same work, however, in a list of the generic characters, he spelled the name *Paradisea*. In 1760, Linnaeus (1760, pp. 83, 110) again repeated the two spellings as valid for the genus and again without preference, but in 1766 he used only the spelling *Paradisea* (Linnaeus, 1766, pp. 54, 166). No one else, in the meantime, had made any selection.

2. David et al. (2009, p. 4) pointed out that this was a case in which Linnaeus became his own First Reviser under Article 24.2.4 of the Code; they concluded, given the retroactive nature of this provision introduced in the Fourth Edition of the Code, that *Paradisea* and PARADISEIDAE were the correct original spellings. *Paradisea* in that spelling was used widely in the 19th century (e.g. Elliot, 1873; Sharpe, 1877;

Salvadori, 1881; Sharpe, 1891–1898; Rothschild, 1898; Sharpe, 1903), where it was referred back to the starting date of Linnaeus (1766) under the Stricklandian Code (Strickland, 1843). But it fell into disuse early in the 20th century because of the lead given by Stresemann (1913, 1914, 1923, 1930, and particularly 1927–1934). Assiduously following the recently instituted *Règles* of 1905 (Congrès Internationaux de Zoologie, 1905), Stresemann used *Paradisaea* and the associated family name, PARADISAEIDAE, now referred back to the older starting date of Linnaeus (1758).

3. These latter spellings have now been adopted almost universally in the post 1920 scientific literature and leading ornithological manuals and checklists, as follows:

(a) Global checklists and nomenclators: Stresemann (1927–1934), Mayr & Amadon (1951), Wetmore (1960), Mayr (1962), Warren & Harrison (1971), Wolters (1977), Walters (1980), Edwards (1986), Sibley & Ahlquist (1990), Sibley & Monroe (1990), Howard & Moore (1991), Monroe & Sibley (1993), Commission Internationale des Noms Français des Oiseaux (1993), Bock (1994), Wells (1998), Dickinson (2003), Peters et al. (2004), Gill & Wright (2006), McCarthy (2006), Clements (2007);

(b) Regional works, checklists and handbooks: Stresemann (1923), Mathews (1930), Mayr (1941), Rand & Gilliard (1967), Diamond (1972), Majnep & Bulmer (1977), Beehler & Finch (1985), Coates (1990), Schodde & Mason (1999), Steinheimer (2005), Gregory (2008), Christidis & Boles (2008);

(c) Field guides: Beehler et al. (1986), Coates in collaboration with Peckover (2001), Strange (2001);

(d) Family monographs: Gilliard (1969), Cooper & Forshaw (1977), Cracraft (1992), Frith & Beehler (1998);

(e) Treatises on evolution, speciation and behaviour in the family PARADISAEIDAE: Stresemann (1930), LeCroy (1981), Bateson (1983), Walters (1988), Andersson (1994), Johnsgard (1994), Ligon (1999), Barker et al. (2004);

(f) Historical works, manuals, and popular texts: Peckover & Filewood (1976), Van Tyne & Berger (1976), Campbell & Lack (1985), Welty & Baptista (1988), Swadling (1996) and Gill (2007).

Moreover, the family PARADISAEIDAE extends from New Guinea to Australia and to islands as far west of New Guinea as Obi and Halmahera, Indonesia. It comprises species of world-wide conservation concern and appears with the ‘ae’ spelling in such important conservation management references as: Collar et al. (1994), Stattersfield et al. (1998), Supriatna (1999), BirdLife International (2000) and CITES (2009).

4. To our knowledge, only the minor works of Iredale (1948, 1950, 1956) and McAlpine (1979) have employed *Paradisea* since the 1920s; but it has been used in the 20th century nonetheless. If the in-use spelling *Paradisaea* is to be kept, the only recourse appears to be an action by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature under its plenary power (Article 81.1 of the Code) that would rule *Paradisaea* Linnaeus, 1758 to be the correct original spelling. Articles 33.2.3.1 and 33.3.1 of the Code cannot be used to conserve it because they concern emendations and subsequent spellings, not alternative original spellings, which *Paradisaea* and *Paradisea* are.

5. Under Article 29.5 of the Code, the spelling PARADISAEIDAE, despite not being formed from *Paradisea* according to the grammatical procedures of Articles 29.3.1 and 29.3.2, is to be maintained as prevailing usage. In such circumstances, conserving *Paradisaea* Linnaeus, 1758 becomes even more conducive to stability because

otherwise the the presently correct original spellings *Paradisea* Linnaeus, 1758 and PARADISAEIDAE will conflict with one another and create confusion. If, moreover, the Commission takes action to conserve *Paradisaea*, the spelling of PARADISAEIDAE will become the correct spelling under Articles 11.7.1, 29.1, 29.3 and 35.4 of the Code, the same as that in prevailing use. In either case, no ruling by the Commission is needed to protect the in-use spelling of the family name; yet we believe that stability would benefit if the name PARADISAEIDAE in that spelling were placed on the Official List.

6. The authority for the family name PARADISAEIDAE is not Vigors (1825), as conventionally attributed (e.g. Bock, 1994, p. 158). The author instead is Swainson (1825). Constrained by the Quinary system, Vigors (l.c., pp. 448–449, 465) had no place for the '*Paradisaeae*' as a family in either of the tribes (= suborders) Conirostres or Tenuirostres to which he referred the birds of paradise. His contemporary William Swainson (1825) nevertheless included the PARADISAEIDAE as valid in the Tenuirostres, naming the family as PARADISEIDAE on p. 480 and making it available by indication (Articles 11.7.1.1 and 12.2.4 of the Code) on p. 479 by basing it on '*Paradisea*, Linn.' in a footnote.

7. Because the spellings *Paradisaea* and PARADISAEIDAE are overwhelmingly in prevailing use today, and because of the confusion that will result from switching between such similarly-spelled names as *Paradisaea* and *Paradisea*, we believe it appropriate for the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its plenary power under Article 81.1 of the Code to establish the spellings *Paradisaea* and PARADISAEIDAE firmly.

8. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to suppress all previous First Reviser Acts affecting the spellings *Paradisea* Linnaeus, 1758 and *Paradisaea* Linnaeus, 1758, and to rule that *Paradisaea* Linnaeus, 1758 is the correct original spelling of the name;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Paradisaea* Linnaeus, 1758 (gender: feminine), type species *Paradisaea apoda* Linnaeus, 1758 by subsequent designation by G.R. Gray (1840), ruled in (1) above to be the correct original spelling;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *apoda* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Paradisaea apoda* (specific name of the type species of *Paradisaea* Linnaeus, 1758);
- (4) to place on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology the name PARADISAEIDAE Swainson, 1825, type genus *Paradisaea* Linnaeus, 1758;
- (5) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the name *Paradisea* Linnaeus, 1758, an incorrect original spelling as per the ruling in (1) above;
- (6) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology the name PARADISEIDAE Swainson, 1825, an incorrect spelling of PARADISAEIDAE Swainson, 1825.

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